

ATTACKS ON NEW SYSTEM RIDDLED

E. A. Sherman, One of Cedar Rapids City Commissioners, Addresses Voters.

IS REPRESENTATIVE PLAN

Iowa City Makes Great Strides and the People Display More Civic Pride.

Disclaiming the contentions of opponents of the plan that the commission form of government law is unconstitutional, is an experiment or a fad, is expensive, is not representative as a form of government, gives the council too much power, gives an opportunity for bad men to get control and build up an invincible machine, and that the initiative and referendum and recall keeps the city in a constant ferment and turmoil and causes great expense because of special elections, E. A. Sherman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, formerly an alderman under the old plan and a commissioner under the new plan, and now editor of the Cedar Rapids Record, at the mass meeting in the rink on Sixteenth street yesterday afternoon spoke in favor of the commission form of government and denounced the aldermanic form of government now in vogue as being one hundred years behind the times. The speaker was introduced by Charles Wilson, former city councilman. Several hundred men listened attentively to the address.

Mr. Sherman during his address read a number of letters from prominent labor leaders of Cedar Rapids, all speaking favorably of the commission plan of government. The letters were from E. A. Canfield, president of the Cedar Rapids Federation of Labor; C. M. Hugh, secretary of the Cedar Rapids Federation of Labor; Tony Weidloch and S. J. Conrad, president and secretary of local No. 253, Electrical workers; Ross D. Smith, president of Typographical union No. 192, and Olaf L. Lagerquist, president, and W. C. Meyer, secretary of the Allied Printing Trades council.

SAME OLD ARGUMENTS.

"There are those who argue against the commission plan," Mr. Sherman said. "You undoubtedly have them in your city, just as we had them in ours—just as they are to be found everywhere. There are some men who hold an honest belief against the plan, uninfluenced by personal motives. I honor the opinion of such men. It is only a question of time when they will see the light and become the strongest supporters of the plan. But it has been my experience that the majority of the men who are the most active in opposing the plan are those who fear in its adoption their sudden and violent separation from the personal political 'pull' or the special privileges they have been enjoying. They see in the adoption of the plan the handwriting on the wall. And so they work and argue against it with the desperation of men who are in the last ditch. Their arguments are many and varied and generally suited to the special occasion. Often times they are wholly irrelevant, but if they do apply, the majority of them may be classed under the following headings:

- "1. It is unconstitutional.
- "2. It is an experiment—a fad.
- "3. It is expensive.
- "4. It is not representative government.
- "5. It gives councils the power of a czar.

BOGY OF BAD MEN.

"6. The initiative, referendum and recall provisions will keep the community in constant ferment and turmoil, and cause great expense for special elections. Or the recall is too easy to operate, as under the Iowa law; or too hard to secure, as under the Illinois statute; or fault is found because it is entirely missing, as from the Wisconsin measure.

"7. It gives opportunity for bad men to get control and build up an invincible machine.

"8. Any old argument that happens to be handy and which may possibly serve to prejudice somebody against the plan.

"Now, just a few moments' attention to these anti-arguments and these fears of terrible things to happen in case the plan is adopted by the community. 'They say that it is unconstitutional because the council enacts laws and executes it—that such a thing is not warranted under our bill of fundamental rights. I am not a lawyer, so offer no personal legal opinion; but the commission plan has passed in review before some of the brightest and most learned attorneys and jurists in the country, and not one of them has cared to raise the question of unconstitutionality. The plan has now been in operation some ten years and if it were unconstitutional that fact would have developed long ago.

"It is an experiment—a fad. That claim is fully answered by the fact that for a decade the plan has been in successful operation and that at the present time it has been adopted in whole or in part by no fewer than one hundred cities in all parts of the United States. Surely the civic plan that can point to such a length of life, and such a remarkable growth in popularity, cannot longer be classed as an experiment or a fad.

VALUE FOR EVERY DOLLAR.

"It is expensive. The records of every city where the plan is in operation show exactly the contrary. It is true, the mayor and councilmen are paid more money than under the old ward system, but they give their time and services to the city, and under their personal supervision the city saves many thousands of dollars annually in the securing of full value for each dollar expended. The record of every city under the commission plan is one of reduction of tax levy and municipal debt and increase in amount of public opinion.

"It is not representative government. When you think of it, this objection is something of a joke. Under the old plan, take, for instance, a city with eight wards—a city like Cedar Rapids. We had an alderman from each ward and two at large. I had the privilege of voting for the one alderman from the ward in which I lived and the two aldermen at large. In other words, out of the 10 men who transacted my city business I had the opportunity to vote for only three. I was denied the right to vote for several of them—more than two-thirds. And yet the man who opposes the commission plan, with its election at large, claims that the ward plan is truly representative. I deny it. The commission plan is the only true representative plan. Under it I vote for all my city officers.

PLACES RESPONSIBILITY.

"It gives councils the powers of a czar. Stuff and nonsense! The plan does not comprehend any such autocratic prerogative. It makes the men elected the servants of all the people of the community and places on their shoulders a concentration of responsibility that is the farthest removed possible from tyrannical domination. A mayor or councilman would have a lovely time playing the role of a Nicholas of Russia under the commission plan. He would last just about long enough to be kicked into outer darkness.

"The initiative, referendum and recall provision will keep the community in constant ferment and turmoil and cause great expense for special elections, etc. How the opponent of the plan delights to chew the rag over some phase of this feature of the law that he would have made to read different had he written the bill. He seems to think that all the law and the prophets are summed up in this heart and bone and sinew of the commission plan. The facts are that the initiative, referendum and recall are the emergency brakes of the plan, to be used only in dire extremity. They are like the gun which the Texan of early days carried. He did not want it often, but when he did he wanted it badly. The recall has been actually exercised only once, and that in San Diego, a city which is not under the commission plan of government. In all the 10 years of commission plan history I have not been able to discover the record of a special election for the initiative or referendum.

"Invincible machine? It gives opportunity for bad men to get control and build up an invincible machine. The folly of this argument is apparent in view of the fact that in order to be elected the men who are successful must secure a majority of all the votes cast in the city and before that run the gauntlet of an open primary. If a machine is continued in power it is because the people will it so.

"And when all argument fails, the other fellows play their last card. They admit that the commission plan is a good thing—'great stuff' in certain cities, where municipal government has been a stretch in the nostrils of all good citizens; but why introduce it into their own ill-fated, Florida-watered, carefully-maintained community, where such a thing as inefficiency of ward-chosen aldermen, or rottenness in politically appointed ward-healer city officials is unknown? As answering this 'last ditch' objection, I have only to say: 'May God help the spotless town that is so perfect that it is not susceptible of improvement.'

"As for the remainder of the fear-some shuddering as the possible iniquities of the plan, quoted previously, I shall not further trespass on your time. I only call your attention to the fact that all objections to the plan are purely theoretical and suppositional. Morse was told that his telegraph would not work, but it did. McCork-

mick was advised by his wise neighbors that his harvester would not cut grain, but it did. And so with the commission plan of city government. The avul chorus rings out noisily, but for 10 years the plan has demonstrated its feasibility and successfulness and today one hundred cities have adopted it and found it good. As between theory and actual demonstration, there can be no opportunity for choice. The verdict must of necessity be on the side of the actual demonstration.

"The commission plan was adopted in Cedar Rapids at a special election held in December, 1907, and went into effect April 6, 1908. Little interest was taken in this election. Only a minority of the voters took the trouble to go to the polls, and the proposition was carried by 33 votes. Much of the opposition to the plan was developed among the Bohemian citizens, who feared that under its provisions they would be deprived of some of their rights and privileges.

"If the proposition were to come up in Cedar Rapids tomorrow on the question of going back to the old plan, I believe there would be a vote of 85 per cent in favor of the retention of the commission law. The people are interested in it—they see that things are being done, that there is a responsible head to city affairs; that their money is being expended with a view to economy and results; that they are being constantly informed as to the progress of the city's business—in short, that their municipal government is now a purely business proposition, and with this condition has come a general awakening as to civic affairs among all classes. It's a favorable sign when the voters take the time and trouble to keep themselves informed as to the movement of municipal matters. The commission plan law has done more to awaken civic pride in Cedar Rapids than all that happened during the 50 years that the city was operated under its special charter.

All of the factories and shops of the city will tomorrow allow their employees the usual two hours provided by law to go to the polls and cast their votes on the commission government question.

An Exception. "Emerson says there is always a best way of doing everything."

"Is there? I wonder if he ever found a best way of wearing a pair of shoes that were about a size too small?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

"You are as well as your stomach."

HOSTETTER. A word to the wise is sufficient.

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS FOR INDIGESTION, DYSPEPSIA, COLDS, GRIP AND MALARIA.

All the news all the time—The Argus.

STORE CLOSED ALL DAY TODAY—NEW YEAR'S

Harned & Von Maur

Our eighth twice-a-year
20% Cash Discount Sale

Starts tomorrow morning, continues seven days

20% Off on Everything

That our 20% Cash Discount Sales are a great success is clearly evident in the fact that others have been so quick to attempt the same. But like most imitations they lack the essentials which made the original a success. In this case, only our idea has been copied, not our methods.

The next seven days will witness the most spirited selling that has ever been seen in this store, not even excepting the recent Christmas trade, which was the heaviest in our experience.

Without an exception everyone of these 20% Cash Discount Sales has far outstripped the selling records of the previous sale, demonstrating beyond dispute that they are recognized

as the leading money-saving events of the year.

For two reasons, they offer much greater advantages than the ordinary reduced-price sale.

FIRST—You save ONE-FIFTH on virtually everything in all departments of the store.

SECOND—Your choice is not restricted to just a few items at reduced prices, but you have the privilege of choosing even the newest and freshest goods on our shelves, and at a clear saving of ONE-FIFTH. In other words you get a dollar's worth for 80c; \$5 worth for \$4. A pair of \$3.50 shoes will cost you but \$2.80; \$10 worth of dress goods but \$8; \$20 worth of linens but \$16; a \$25 rug but \$20 and so on through all stocks.

In cases where goods are reduced more than 20 per cent, the prices remain the same, otherwise the 20 per cent is deducted from the reduced prices.

Everything is marked in plain figures. The discount is taken off the total amount of your purchase.

It is necessary to withhold a few lines from the 20% discount, such as spool cotton, spool silk, patterns, certain brands of corsets, etc., because the manufacturers insist in our not selling below the retail prices fixed by them.

Make out your list now.

You will find it an excellent investment to buy for several months ahead, for not again until July will you have a like opportunity.

NOTHING CHARGED AT 20% DISCOUNT

City Chat

Kerler & Co. make rugs. Carpenter Coal company. Sell coal. Phone west 295. Buy a home of Reddy Bros. Tri-city Towel Supply company. For express, call Spencer & Trefz. Go to the Rock Island house cafe for dinner, just 25 cents.

Mound City paints may cost a little more, but—! Ill & Ehle.

Eat your lunch at the Rock Island house cafe, only 25 cents.

Don't forget to eat your dinner at the Rock Island house cafe.

Business men's lunch at the Rock Island house cafe for 25 cents.

Let William Johnson do your tin and furnace work. 1316 Third avenue.

Kindling wood, \$3.50 a load, delivered. Kahke Bros. Phone West 9.

Fresh supply of Mrs. Austin's famous buckwheat flour at all grocers.

Kindling wood, \$3.50 a load, delivered. Kahke Bros. Phone West 9.

Fresh supply of Mrs. Austin's famous buckwheat flour at all grocers.

H. T. Siemon wants your tin and furnace work. 1526-1528 Fourth avenue.

Fresh supply of Mrs. Austin's famous pancake flour now at your grocers.

Dinner served at the Rock Island house cafe from 11:30 to 2 p. m., for 25 cents.

Carpenter Coal company, telephone west 295. Please copy our number in your telephone book.

Court of Honor No. 855 will give a dance at Besell's hall Thursday evening, Jan. 5. Admission 15 cents. Freed's orchestra.

Don't forget to attend the closing out sale of notions, household necessities, pictures, tables, show cases, picture framing outfit, etc. B. F. Rhodenbaugh, 515 Seventeenth street.

Postcards 50 cents per dozen, three for 25 cents, four panels 25 cents. Increased business makes it necessary to finish photos every day. You will get your postcards the second day after taking. There is only one right way to finish postcards so they will not fade. Kerr, 1807 1/2 Second avenue.

Saves Two Lives.

"Neither my sister nor myself might be living today if it had not been for Dr. King's New Discovery," writes A. D. McDonald of Fayetteville, N. C., R. F. D. No. 8, "for we both had frightful coughs that no other remedy could help. We were told my sister had consumption. She was very weak and had night sweats but your wonderful medicine completely cured us both. It's the best I ever used or heard of." For sore lungs, coughs, colds, hemorrhage, grip, asthma, hay fever, croup, whooping cough—all bronchial troubles—it's supreme. Trial bottle free; 50 cents and \$1. Guaranteed by all druggists.

STATES OBJECTIONS TO THE NEW COMMISSION PLAN LAW

Rock Island, Ill., Jan. 2.—Editor The Argus: A great deal has been said in favor of adopting the new commission plan of municipal government. All that has been said in favor of this has come from outside states. Illinois has never had a law permitting this until the last jack pot legislature passed a so-called law. The commission plan as tried by cities in other states has been praised much beyond the truth. Great claims are made for it at Galveston, Tex. Galveston has decreased in population and is now so flagrantly in the hands of aristocracy that the common people are leaving the city. The true cause for the adoption of this plan there was that some of the rich men of Galveston refused to allow some of the poor flood refugees to come into their great stone palace residences during the storm. These rich men were being threatened with violence because of their cold blooded actions and adopted the commission plan to get quick and permanent control. They have since formed such a despotism that the same men are in office that were there at the time of the flood. A great deal more truth might be told of the causes and workings of this despotic form of government in other cities. In his speech at the rink, yesterday Sherman of Cedar Rapids told how there were eight union men in the council there before adopting this plan and that there was not a laboring man in the council now.

But the main issue is the vote on this law itself. Nothing has been said about this law itself by any of these outside men. The Illinois law came from the jack pot legislature in the first place. It is a jack pot law as is shown by the following sections of the law itself.

Section 22 of this law provides that every city or village adopting this law "shall be governed by a council, consisting of the mayor and four commissioners. Three members of the council shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of three members shall adopt any motion, resolution or ordinance, or pass any measure."

Section 23 of this law provides "the council shall by ordinance determine the powers and duties of and to be performed" by this commission.

Section 25 provides "the council shall have power by ordinance, from time to time, to create, fill and discontinue offices and employment."

Section 31 provides the mayor shall have a salary of \$2,500 and the commissioners a salary of \$2,000 in a city of this size and "all other officers, assistants and employees of such city or village shall receive such salary or compensation as the council thereof shall by ordinance provide."

By these three sections you will see that three men can rule the city;

that they have absolute power to create by ordinance any power they want; that they can create any office they want to and as many offices as they please; that they can pay any old salary or compensation they please. This is the plan that enabled the Galveston commissioners to build their perpetual machine.

Section 42 provides for a recall petition and provides that "all objections shall be determined by the council." By this these commissioners pass upon objections to themselves. Their decision is obvious.

Section 43 provides that "if the officer sought to be recalled or removed shall resign within five days after the petition is filed with the clerk, the council shall proceed to appoint his successor, the same as in the case of other vacancies and no election shall be held." By this section these commissioners could resign one at a time, resign one at a time, the others could fill the vacancy each time, and at the end of four years you would have an entirely new set of commissioners, by appointment, not by election.

We should not adopt any such a jack pot law; it is unfit to govern any city by. I am,

Sincerely Yours,
HARRY M. McCASKIN.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is not a common, every day cough mixture. It is a meritorious remedy for all the troublesome and dangerous complications resulting from cold in the head, throat, chest or lungs. Sold by all druggists.

Ice Cream, Cakes and Pastry

Not "just as good" as somebody else's.

But Better

The proof is in the eating. Give us your order and let us prove our claim.

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DELIVERIES EVERY DAY

ANOTHER TESTIMONIAL TO COMMISSION PLAN FROM BURLINGTON

The following communication has been received by Dr. Louis Ostrom, Burlington, Iowa, Dec. 29.—Rev. C. J. Sodergren, A. M., City—My Dear Sir: The statement by your Rock Island correspondent that reports are in circulation in that city to the effect that the people of Burlington are disgusted with the commission plan of government and are anxious to get rid of it, shows to what absurd lengths opposition to the plan can be carried. The proposition carried in Burlington by a vote of over two to one and our people have no thought of going back to the old ward system with all its manifest defects and weaknesses.

While the plan is not been in operation here long enough to form a final judgment upon every detail of the new system, we have had experience enough to demonstrate many of the advantages gained over the ward system.

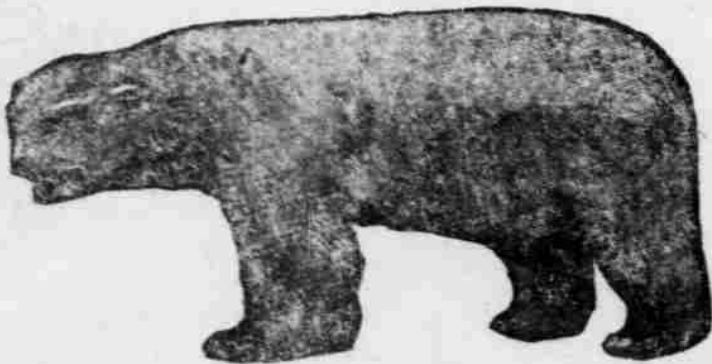
Whatever of graft may have existed

under the former plan of city government has certainly been eliminated and large economies effected in the expenses of the city government. And there is great satisfaction in the knowledge that all of the city business now is transacted in the open and that it is subject to the inspection of the people and the press, and that the responsible heads of departments are accountable for every transaction.

Our experience, however, is no different from that of many other cities that have adopted the commission form of city government. Not one of them has returned to the old method and from none of them is there any word of a desire to do so. This fact is significant and is complete refutation of ridiculous criticisms like that said to be circulated in Rock Island concerning Burlington.

Very truly yours,
J. L. WAITE,
Editor Burlington Hawk Eye.

Bennett's For Furs



1819 Second Avenue. Look for the Bear Rock Island.